REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1-5 and 8-17 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate limitations similar to the limitations that were presented in original claims 6 and 7. However, amended claim 1 further defines the forwarding end detector as detecting whether or not the character obtained by the conversion by the character-data converting unit includes "a string indicating the forwarding end stored in the forwarding-end presenting unit." Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to correct the formal objections noted in the office action. Claims 4 and 5 remain in the application and have not been amended.

Claim 8 has been amended to indicate more clearly that the control unit causes the forwarding unit to forward the character data obtained by the conversion of the facsimile data performed by the character-data converting unit to the forwarding end if the forwarding end displayed on the display is received by the forwarding-end receiving unit. New dependent claims 9-12 correspond to claims 2-5, but depend from claim 8.

New dependent claim 13 is directed to the feature where the forwarding-end detector detects whether or not the character data obtained by the conversion of the facsimile data performed by the character-data converting unit includes a string indicating the forwarding end stored in the forwarding-end presenting unit or a string similar to the forwarding end stored in the forwarding-end presenting unit. New claim 13 further defines the control unit as causing the forwarding end detected by the forwarding-end detector to be displayed on the display and causing the forwarding unit to forward the character data obtained by the conversion performed by the character-data converting unit to the

forwarding end if the forwarding end displayed on the display is received by the forwarding end receiving unit. Thus, the forwarding end is displayed on the display if there is a character string matched with or similar to the character string indicating a matched forward end, and then transmitting facsimile data to the forwarding end in accordance with the user's instruction. Support for new claim 13 is provided by paragraph 0061 of the original application.

New claims 14-17 correspond to original claims 2-5, but depend from new claim 13.

The Examiner raised formal objections to claims 2 and 3 and required appropriate correction.

The Examiner's careful reading of the claims is appreciated. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended in accordance with the helpful advice offered by the Examiner.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,917,615 to Reifman et al. The Examiner identified elements of the Reifman et al. reference that were considered to correspond to the limitations in the original claim.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 6 and 7 and to define the invention more clearly. With respect to original claim 7, the Examiner appears to have interpreted the claim as defining a facsimile apparatus that corrects errors in a character string received by the facsimile apparatus. The Examiner equates "the forwarding end detector" of original claim 7 to an error detector (see Figure 4E, Error Message 1142 of Reifman et al.) and the "forwarding end receiving unit" to an "Error Correction Mode (ECM)", where the ECM judges the errors and corrects the errors in a character string. The Examiner also interpreted original claim 7 as transmitting a

message consisting of binary data and other data by a protocol such as an "EFAX" and automatically identified and executed by a facsimile system as set forth in the Reifman et al. reference.

Reifman et al. is directed to a system and method for facsimile loading balancing. Reifman et al. discloses an intelligent facsimile machine (IFAX) having a display and a user input device for transmitting a facsimile cover page. The IFAX can store a plurality of digital cover pages to minimize transmission time for a facsimile cover page. The user may select from a list of stored digital cover pages. The user may also attach a binary data file to a facsimile message and transfer the data to another facsimile machine. If the IFAX is coupled to a second IFAX on a network, the two IFAX machines can balance the work load by sending a load transfer request if the number of outgoing facsimile messages exceeds a predetermined threshold level. The IFAX can also route incoming facsimile messages to a variety of destinations such as a floppy disk or other storage device, or an external computer. The IFAX can also relay incoming facsimile messages to another facsimile machine, using a set or relay instructions. The relay instructions may be nested, and the IFAX sends the facsimile message to a second IFAX with instructions for the second IFAX to relay the facsimile message to a third facsimile machine.

The features of original claim 7 that have been incorporated into amended claim 1 now define the forwarding-end detector more clearly as detecting "whether or not the facsimile data converted into the character data by the character-data converting unit includes a string indicating the forwarding end stored in the forwarding-end presenting unit." It is to be appreciated the "forwarding end" is a destination of the facsimile data, such as a folder in a computer, a computer via electronic mail or another facsimile

apparatus. With this arrangement, "if the forwarding end is detected by the forwarding-end detector, the control unit causes the forwarding unit to forward the character data obtained by the conversion by the character-data converting unit to the forwarding end detected by the forwarding-end detector." In other words, the forwarding-end detector will determine the forwarding end, i.e., the destination of the facsimile data, by reading the character data converted from the facsimile data. Reifman et al. discloses routing the facsimile via a user interface or by binary data programmed into the facsimile according to the EFAX protocol. It is submitted that the Reifman et al. reference has no suggestion of the features of the invention as set forth in amended claim 1. Accordingly, it is submitted that amended claim 1 is patentable over the Reifman et al. reference.

Claims 2-5 and 8-17 all depend from amended claim 1 and are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicants' attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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